

A TRIBUTE TO FR. JOHN RECHTEIN

By **Ray Laramie**, St. John Vianney class of 1966

I'd like to share some of my thoughts about **Fr. (then Brother) John Rechtein**. He was my junior year English teacher at Vianney. I'm currently a math teacher at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut and have been since 2004 after a couple of other careers. I have always remarked to my classes that the most important teacher in my high school career was Brother John Rechtein. I owe my ability to write to his teaching brilliance and dedication. In my other two careers (computer systems and corporate aviation) the ability to write clearly and concisely was the most important factor in my job ... more important than programming skill or flying skill. And this is coming from a math geek whose favorite high school class was physics.

Today I had my two geometry classes rewriting/analyzing their answers to an essay-type question from a recent quiz about triangles. I was disappointed in the lack of clarity and precision in their answers. I had some apprehension about taking a math class period to do "English", but I could clearly see each iteration of their work becoming more focused, clear, and precise. I am so glad I did this. None of this would have been possible without the legacy of John Rechtein remaining alive in my classroom. Even the students agreed at the end of class that this was a very worthwhile exercise.

Near the beginning of class I "googled" his name and projected his bio on the front board. I wanted them to see just how accomplished he was and to see too that I wasn't making this up. Street cred is worth a lot in a high school classroom. They were suitably impressed and listened more readily to my analysis of their writing as the process unfolded. I'd appreciate it if you could post this in the Comments section underneath Fr. Rechtein's bio. It would please him to no end to know that he has influenced two classes of sophomores in Connecticut in 2012.

Thank you so much.

Ray Laramie